1700 N. Congress Ave. • Austin, TX 78701-1495 • 512-463-5339 • FAX: 512-475-1415

PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY: VIETNAM MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPENT REMEMBERANCE CEREMONY

Veterans reunite at new Texas State Veterans Home to remember the sacrifice of Lance Corporal Richard A. Anderson and his selfless devotion to fellow soldiers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 20, 2019

Contact: Karina Erickson Press Secretary Texas General Land Office (512) 475-5144 Karina.Erickson@GLO.Texas.Gov

HOUSTON — On August 24, 2019, Vietnam Veterans of the 3rd Recon Battalion will gather at the Richard A. Anderson Texas State Veterans Home to commemorate the valor of the home's namesake and the man who saved their lives, Lance Corporal Richard A. Anderson. The Remembrance Ceremony will take place prior to the home's grand opening and falls on the 50th anniversary of the passing of LCpl Anderson. Veterans Land Board Chairman George P. Bush will address the reunited Veterans and honor the sacrifice of Richard Anderson. The ceremony will be hosted by the Veterans Land Board and will provide the Veterans of the 3rd Brigade an opportunity to share their stores of LCpl. Anderson and his heroic sacrifice. The Remembrance Ceremony will feature an all-female Marine Honor Guard presenting the colors, a presentation of the 3rd Recon Battalion flag to Chairman Bush along with stories told by LCpl Anderson's battle buddies- many of whom life's he saved.

"The magnitude of Lance Corporal Richard Anderson's sacrifice is impossible to capture in words," said Veterans Land Board Chairman George P. Bush. "The dedication and reverence of the 3rd Recon Battalion is a testament to the profound impact this American hero left behind. The Remembrance Ceremony will be a solemn yet uplifting display of loyalty, as Veterans unite from across the country to celebrate the 50 years of life Anderson gave them by sacrificing his own."

Saturday, August 24, 2019 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. Richard A. Anderson Texas State Veterans Home 14041 Cottingham Road Houston, Texas 77048

Media is welcome and it is requested that you <u>RSVP</u>so we can facilitate your coverage of the event. This event is closed to the public and is by invitation only.

Background on Lance Corporal Richard Anderson:

The Texas State Veterans Home in Houston is named after Richard A. Anderson, a U.S. Marine who served from April 8, 1968 to August 24, 1969.

After completing his recruit training with the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Anderson received individual combat training with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Training Regiments, Marine Corps Base in Camp Pendleton, California.

Once he completed all his training he was promoted to Private First-Class and was promoted again a year later to Lance Corporal after serving as the Assistant Fire Team Leader with Company E during the Vietnam War.

Anderson was mortally wounded in combat but relentlessly continued firing while his wounds were being treated by another soldier. While he was being treated the enemy threw a grenade which landed between the two men, Anderson quickly rolled over the grenade protecting his partner from the explosion.

Anderson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on August 24, 1969, for his courage and selfless devotion going above the call of duty by giving his life for his country.

Richard A. Anderson Texas State Veterans Home will open in the fall of 2019 and has 120 beds, of which 30 are designated to memory care.